Boston April 24 [illegible]

My dear Genl

I recd yours of [illegible] Instt from Bound Brook— The pleaſure I enjoy at your happy & almost miraculous escape is not in the power of Language, the pencil of Hogarth, nor the poetick genius of a Churchill to expreſs—

Sure I am, my dear Sir had you had a ſufficient number of men to ſupport you, & have ſent out the neceſsary patrols & ſentries, they never would have evaded the obſervation of your patrols, & attack'd your encampments in different parts—

I dare not ask why no more than five hundred men to guard 5, or 6 miles within 5 miles of the enemy, & an important post too. Your loſs was very trifling considering the number of the enemy their large train, & the advantage they had of ſurprizing you. Heaven would aſsist us, were we only to do our duty—

I hope before this reaches you, ſuch reinforcements will have arriv'd as to enable you to attack the enemy with advantage— Your inclos'd I immediately forwarded to your lady—

As I have once been fortunate in recommending to you a Brigade Major. I will now venture to recommend Lt Willm North of my regt for an Aid du Camp— as the one you lost was only pro. tem, ſuppoſe that place so important to my Genl is now vacant— I want one by your ſide on whom I can depend. He is of a genteel carriage, polite in his manners [illegible] ect — writes well, & is a good Scholar tho [illegible] College education — He is ambitious & [illegible]ous —

Within the last 20 days ~~[illegible]~~ large supplies of Cannon, small arms, blankets, cloth, &c &c. have arrived this way from France for the united States & for Massts Bay — 54 brass four pound^rs with carriages &c compleat have arrived at Portsmouth for the Continent, & are now forwarding for head quarters —

Six prizes have arrived at different ports within a week — loaded with provisions of all sorts, they were bound to Quebeck & New York —

My regt is establish'd for 3 yrs. They are now about raising two battalions to ~~make~~ compleat the Sea coast men so call'd — We are now compleating the works at Castle Island &c

The Continental battalions are not so backward as I fear'd — The Court is about draughting to make up their deficiency —

The test act comes out in a few days — the tories have multiply'd lately, & have been imprudent — I fear more from them, than from our step mother — Joyce junr waited on five of them out of town last week with a cart, & two horses — Their names Wm Jackson — Rd Green. N. Cary Cape Ann Searjeant & James Perkins — Perhaps it was necessary perhaps not — The test act comes out in consequence of it — They that are not for us are against us.

Josiah H. Benton Fund
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Every thing appears ~~in our~~ favourable to our most ſanguine expectations – there is nothing but ſpirit, virtue, & unanimity and patriotiſm – That the Guardian Angel of America may protect, & preserve you, & that you may be crown'd with laurels of victory is the earnest wish of your ſincere

friend

H Gratz –

I did propose to coppy this, as an oppertunity this moment offers ſend rough as it is – ———

H –

From Mr. Hratts.

May 24. 77.

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